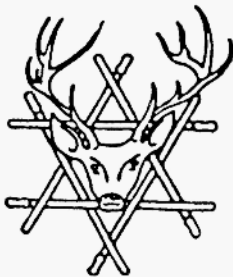


PUDDINGSTONE



Inside
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issue:

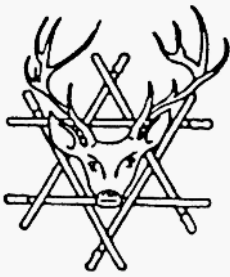
AGM 2010 edition
Affiliated Clubs & Chairman's report

- Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund
- English Miscellany visit Zumarraga
- St Albans Morris 80th Birthday Tour
- Celebrating 16 in style
- News & letters
- Diary Dates 2010 - 2011

Issue 48

September - December
Autumn 2010

40p
Where sold



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION

Key contacts (see further details on middle pages)

Chairman: **Miss Hilary Vare**
31 Firs Lane, London, N21 2HT
Tel: 0208 360 6846

Membership secretary: **Nic Nicolson**
6 Blackthorn Close, St Albans, AL4 9RP
Tel: 01727 854183

Hon Treasurer: **Mr Roger Swaine**
29 Turmore Dale, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HT
Tel: 01707 324413

Correspondence & diary dates to: **Mr Terry Elvins**
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Tel: 01707 320299

COPY DATE
for Spring Issue
(Jan - April 2010)

1st December

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The editor reserves the right to edit received items as appropriate.

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puddingstone welcomes articles, news, pictures, letters and music, as well as Advertising and will review CDs on receipt (space permitting). All material should be sent to the editor - preferably by email.

Preferred digital format for artwork:- .jpg or .pdf. Preferred text format:- Word or plain text. Other file types may be accepted on receipt.

If you would like an advert/article/piece of music etc. published in Puddingstone but do not have the facilities to electronically produce it, please contact me, as I may be able to do this for you.

(subject to available time)

COPY DATES

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PUBLISHED 1st MAY

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PUBLISHED 1st SEPTEMBER

1st Dec for Spring (Jan - Apr) Issue
PUBLISHED 1st JANUARY

PUDDINGSTONE DELIVERY

For the majority of people, Puddingstone is delivered through a club or group. In the past, Puddingstone would also be posted to you individually free of charge. Due to rising postage costs, this has been changed (from January 2008). If you are an HFA member and would like Puddingstone delivered to your door, you will need to pay an additional £1 per year on your subscription. If you are a non-member, the fee remains the same (£2 for three issues).

Please see membership form in centre-page pull-out

Editorial



Thank you all for your contributions. I was not able to fit every thing in, but I'll try Include the contributions left out in the next issue. Please have a look at the New Ideas section at the bottom of pg 5.

I would like to say thank you also to those who wrote or e-mailed to wish me well as editor.

I have had some letters from Jeremy Platten who raises some interesting points about calling and dance etiquette. I quite agree with him that it is outmoded to give dance instructions and to call dances with the expectation of a male lead. It is also unnecessary as with a little thought about wording, even when the man and women are doing different things at the same time, the instructions can be directed at both partners.

The dance floor etiquette about who asks who to dance, and whether it is OK to say "no" is more difficult as it depends so much on the situation. Are the dancers there for social reasons, or just to dance? Is it a dance club or a public Ceilidh?

At a Social or Public event there are likely to be people who have never danced and /or may only be there to watch and chat. At such events it is unlikely that women will ask men who they don't already know to dance, and if asked may well decline. However at a dance club where the focus is on the dance not just on social interaction, people are much more likely to dance with individuals they don't know to make up sets. Women may well ask men who a bit reluctant to join in, and the caller/MC may make up couple if a bit more help is needed. The main thing is keep on dancing.

Adrian Burrows

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For more information visit www.efdss.org

Cleg stops clog by Alan Reimer

So there I was, dancing with Young Miscellany on a day of dance in Winchester. English Miscellany didn't have enough people to form a side so 3 clog dancers from the adult group attached themselves to Young Miscellany who very kindly agreed that we could do one dance in each of their performances. The final mass show of all the teams was meant to be by the cathedral where we've danced in the past. But this time, something odd happened. We couldn't dance in our normal place & had to move further away. 'Why was this' we all asked. Eventually, news filtered through that something big was happening in the cathedral & that we might be a security risk.

The 'something big' turned out to be the deputy prime minister attending a private confirmation. But the security risk? How could I be a security risk? I thought that would-be terrorists would want to merge into the background & not be noticed. But since I'm the English Miscellany costume of a mid Victorian rural bloke with britches & waistcoat, that would be a little tricky. I can imagine the identification parade. 'that's him – the one with the pork pie hat & black britches!' Perhaps I could merge with the others on the day of dance. The border morris side perhaps, or the NW morris. Perchance they'll say 'We can't tell who is the one that we are after, so you'll all have to dance so that we can identify the guilty one'. Now there's Young Miscellany themselves. A fearsome bunch that definitely need close surveillance. If they used their broomsticks in the right way, they could bring water to the eyes. And as for the 4 year old. Oh yes, definite look of mischief about her.



She could batter away at the knee caps assuming that she could reach that far. When Young Miscellany does their border morris, I'm sure that the casual observer would notice their highly trained use of sticks as offensive weapons which could be turned into deadly missiles. As we moved to a new dance site, a helicopter flew overhead. Were we under observation we all thought? We could imagine the pilot looking down & reporting, 'lots of illegals down here; not sure where they are from, but

couldn't possibly be English'.

All hands around

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*Alison Macfarlane
St Albans (01727) 852111
Geoff Ferrin
Hemel (01442) 2623209*



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Closing date January 31

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St Albans, Herts AL1 4DL.

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Trestle Arts Base, St Albans**

www.new-roots.org.uk,
info@stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk
01727 852111

Puddingstone would like to hear about regular folk events taking place in Hertfordshire. If you are involved in a regular ceilidh or song session, we would love to hear from you (please use contact details on page 2).

New Ideas

I am keen to expand the scope of Puddingstone to include a wider variety of Folk topics, and to expand the age range of the readership, especially to include the younger end of the age spectrum. I have already had an offer to contribute a series of articles based on Festivals, Folk and Food, which should start in the next issue. Your ideas and contributions would be welcome, how about some thing on Folk Crafts? I would like to hear about any Folk activities for youngsters in the area and ideas about how to involve and interest them.

Adrian Burrows (Ed)

Celebrating sixteen in style

Eleanor Mestel is in many ways a typical teenage girl, with lots of friends and a hectic lifestyle that relies on a mobile phone and the social networking site, facebook, to organise her activities. She is a bright, outgoing individual with an easy manner and a ready smile who relates well to people of all ages. So, what makes Eleanor a little different from the average sixteen year-old?

Eleanor moved to St. Albans with her family when she was about 10 years old, having spent her early years in Devon. It was in the rural community in which she grew up that her interest in folk music and dance was first sparked. She remembers from a very early age being taken along to barn dances (in real barns!) that were held on any social occasion and of not being able to sit still once the band had started playing. Her interest in music and movement has developed so that now Eleanor plays the piano and has taken classes in ballet, tap and modern dance, but her enduring fascination is folk.

In Devon, Eleanor and her family had been members of the Woodcraft Folk and it was natural that they would maintain their interest when they moved to Hertfordshire. It was therefore inevitable that the family would meet Adrian Burrows (the new editor of Puddingstone) and through him have access to a wealth of local folk knowledge and experience.

Besides all her other interests Eleanor has a love of costume dramas and as her sixteenth birthday approached she and her friends were wondering how they could stage a classic “costume ball” to celebrate the occasion. They reluctantly decided that there were too many problems to overcome with that idea, but then had a blinding flash of inspiration and thought CEILIDH! With limited knowledge of local bands, contact with caller Martin Lindridge proved invaluable and soon Fiddlebridge and Martin were booked to perform at Holmwood Road Church Hall for Eleanor’s birthday celebration.

The personal invitations to this special event that were posted on facebook elicited very mixed reactions – even her boyfriend confided that “this is going to be awful!” Nevertheless, on the evening the hall was filled with Eleanor’s friends and family.

After initial reluctance by some, the party was soon in full swing with all ages and abilities taking to the floor guided by the expert calling of Martin and the driving rhythms of Fiddlebridge. The time simply flew by and all too soon it was time to go home. Everyone said what a brilliant evening it had been; one friend declaring that he was going to hold a ceilidh for his 18th birthday!

Perhaps not too many sixteen year olds would think of holding a birthday ceilidh, but it was perfect for Eleanor and her friends. I am sure that her love of folk music and dance has enthused others so watch out for a host of new young people at your local event or festival in the future.

CD Review by PETE FYFE

SHEP WOOLLEY – GRUMPY OLD MATELOT (Uppit Records BALD 6)

I remember a time when the words 'folk' and 'entertainer' ran side by side like participants in a well-oiled marathon and artists such as Shep Woolley, Jasper Carrot, Richard Digance and Billy Connolly were on equal billing with the likes of Fairport Convention, Steeleye Span and Joe Brown. Of course, the demographic has shifted with most 'folk' music audiences sneering at the very thought of actually enjoying any performance that leaves you with a smile on your face but, having said that, it's interesting to note that Shep has kept his career intact for some forty years where as many more 'cultured' artists have fallen by the wayside. A cursory glance at the track listing highlights the diversity of this particular performer as Dylan's "Don't Think Twice It's Alright" and Tawney's "Chicken On A Raft" sit comfortably alongside uproariously funny monologues including Les Barker's "Old Queen Mother" (complete with Paul Robeson style intonation) and "Woodpeckers". A not inconsiderable song-writer himself, Woolley reprises his nautical favourites "Rammit Boys, I'm RDP" and the jovial sing-a-long "Blue Liners And Bubbly" with other tracks including "Watching The Ships Sail By" and Dave Evaradson's "The Old North Wall" added to the mix. On a more reflective note the inclusion of the powerful reading of Shep's own ironic (The Admiral Said) "We Had A Good War" followed by Pete Seeger's "Where Have All The Flowers Gone" is a nostalgic look back to the heady days when the protest song was king and finishes a nicely rounded package that is great value for money for those of us that remember the halcyon days when Folk Festivals were ruled by the compere.

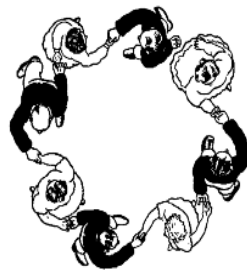
www.shepwoolley.co.uk

London Barndance

Saturday 11th September 8 p.m. **John Meechan**

Weston Country Dance Band

Saturday 9th October 8 p.m.



Rhodri Davies

Stick Shift

Saturday 13th November 8 p.m.

Henry Morgenstein

Chesapeake

Saturday 11th December 8 p.m.

Geoff Cubitt

Fat Harry

All dances are held at
Cecil Sharp House
2 Regents Park Road
London NW1 7AY

Further details from
Andrew and Jane:
01628 633962

home@barndance.org

Tickets: £9.50 (EFDSS £8.50, LBC & concs £7.50)
www.barndance.org

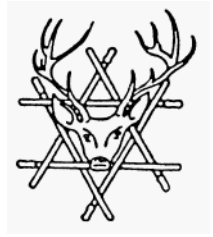
CD Review by PETE FYFE

A L LLOYD – An Evening with A L Lloyd (Fellside Recordings FECD220)

In the early Seventies I spent a day of my ill-spent youth in the company of A L Lloyd at a college in the Elephant & Castle, London. I distinctly remember this because I went especially to see 'Bert' having been steered in his direction via the music of Steeleye Span and Fairport Convention. Being (at that time) more adventurous and with an inquisitive mind I was intrigued to find the source behind much of the material utilised by bands of the folk-rock genre. He was a jovial raconteur whose often humorous takes on the roots of the British tradition have rarely been captured 'live' but on repeated listening to this recording from 1972 you can certainly see why Steeleye and Fairport were similarly inspired with ribald tales such as "The Widow Of Westmorland's Daughter" or the wishful thinking of Henry Lawson's "The Shearer's Dream". The enjoyment of being in Lloyd's company is endorsed by an audience that lustily swells the chorus of the shanty "Doodle Let Me Go" but just as easily respects the big ballads including a five minute "Prince Heathen". Bert was a colourful character that brought to life the songs he sang (often with a wry smile on his face) and much of this is evident on a recording that has been lovingly restored by producer Paul Adams. An inspiration to all of those that have come to enjoy our 'folk tradition' this album should be required listening.
www.fellside.com

PUDDINGSTONE

Middle page pull-out



HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to the English Folk Dance & Song Society)

NOTICE OF THE SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at:

29 Turmore Dale, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6HT

On:

Tuesday 2nd November

2010 At:

7.45pm

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 7th October 2009
3. To approve Report and Accounts for 2009/2010
4. To elect an Hon. Treasurer
5. To elect up to 7 Committee Members
6. To appoint an Auditor
7. To consider any other business
8. Date and Venue of next AGM

Sixteenth ANNUAL REPORT

For the period ended 31st August 2010

Notification of our AGM is included in this issue of Puddingstone and we hope you will be able to attend; full details are listed in the Folk Dance Diary section and we look forward to seeing you there. Once again, throughout this last year, Hertfordshire Folk Association have continued their support, promotion and contribution to a wide variety of folk activities. Our Children's Summer Folk Dance was a resounding success, the programme of Displays, Maypole and Children's dancing being ably led by Chris Turner with music from Jump the Vortex.

This year we were able to provide financial support to Young Miscellany and continued our financial support toward all the sterling work undertaken by Alison Macfarlane. During the winter months we again ran our accordion workshop and during March our first Spring Sing was held at Hoddesdon, with grateful thanks to Roger Swaine and Frank Lee respectively. We anticipate repeating both again next year.

The Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund (HFDF) continues making good headway and will certainly provide an excellent opportunity for us to help more folk enthusiasts develop their skills. Updates are provided in Puddingstone and current details are available from our web site or directly from Norman Dobbing at norman@dobbing.org.uk.

Sadly, because of very considerable family and work commitments Sally Page, our Puddingstone editor, bade us farewell after the Summer edition. There is no doubt that we owe her an enormous vote of thanks for all her hard work and hope she will continue to keep in touch with us. Our new editor is Adrian Burrows; we wish him well and know he is looking forward to receiving details of your Club/Group activities and forthcoming events both within and outside Hertfordshire, so please send him the relevant information. This edition of Puddingstone lists all our affiliated Clubs/Groups and Hertfordshire Folk Association welcomes a representative, with your ideas and comments, to our Committee meetings; Minutes of each last meeting note our future dates. Continuing with communication information, we now have our own web site from which you can obtain details of our activities and diary dates as well as links to other relevant sites, so access us on www.hertsfolkassn.org.uk.

As always, we owe a vote of thanks to all our present committee members who work so hard on your behalf but particularly, our Treasurer Roger Swaine, who has set up and maintains our web site and Secretary Terry Elvins. Nic Nicholson is our East Anglian Council representative and we are also grateful for his continuing work as both Minutes and Membership secretary. We must also thank the members of our Festival Sub-Committee whose hard work contributes so much towards the continuing success of our Hatfield Day of Dance which, of course, ensures that our younger generations participate in the enjoyment and continuation of our folk traditions.

You, the members of Hertfordshire Folk Association are our strength. Thank you for your continuing support and, on your behalf, we look forward to furthering our activities during the coming year.

HERTFORDSHIRE FOLK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Elected Members & Officers as from 29 September 2009

Chairman:	Miss Hilary Vare	hilaryvare@yahoo.com	Tel: 0208 360 6846
Vice Chairman:			
Hon Treasurer:	Mr Roger Swaine	roger.swaine1@btinternet.com	Tel: 01707 324413
Correspondence/ Events Secretary:	Mr Terry Elvins	mail@ptelvins.plus.com	Tel: 01707 320299
Membership secretary: Puddingstone	Mr Nic Nicolson	nic.jackie@btinternet.com	Tel: 01727 854183
Editor:	Mr Adrian Burrows	adrian.r.burrows@btopenworld.com	Tel: 01727 866086
Elected Member:	Mrs Libby Byne-Grey	l.byne-grey@herts.ac.uk	Tel: 01920 460553
Elected Member:	Mr John Grey	l.byne-grey@herts.ac.uk	Tel: 01920 460553
Elected Member:	Vacancy	Our committee members represent several affiliated clubs and we would welcome representatives from any other club to attend our committee meetings. For details of the next meeting, please contact any of the members listed above.	

Friday Folk



If you enjoy a lively barn dance, you'll find Friday Folk is a great way to meet like-minded people and have fun. Newcomers are always welcome. And there's no need to bring a partner.

From 7:45 to 10:00 pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Marlborough Road, St Albans, AL1 3XG.
www.fridayfolk.org.uk – 01727 856508
Standard Friday admission £3

Autumn 2010

3 Sep	Bob Lilley
10 Sep	Wendy Harrup & Friday Folk Band
17 Sep	Mike Bennett
24 Sep	Madeleine and Vic Smith
1 Oct	Club Callers plus AGM
8 Oct	Bea Hawkins
15 Oct	Adam Hughes & FF Band
22 Oct	French Dancing with Linda Moon and musicians
29 Oct	Bob Barrett & Spring Greens
5 Nov	Frances Oates & The Turnabouts
12 Nov	Colin Hume & FF Band
19 Nov	Suzanne Farmer at St Stephens
26 Nov	Brenda and Vic Godrich
27 Nov	Saturday Special at F Bacon Geoff Cubitt & Stick Shift. £8
3 Dec	Mike Bennett & FF Band
10 Dec	Christmas Party Andrew Swaine, Mollie K, & friends. Ends 11pm. £5
17 Dec	Carol Singing around St Albans
7 Jan	Spring term starts

Diary Dates

2010 - 2011

ANTI-CLASH SERVICE : Please notify Hertfordshire's Events Secretary, Terry Elvins, of your Forthcoming Fixtures. If you are planning an event please contact him to check that your event will not clash with another already taking place. His address is: 32 Templewood, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7HX - 01707 320299.

- Sep 3rd **Friday Folk.** For Friday Folk events see separate listing
- Sep 24th **Unicorn Ceilidh** Chalktown plus Pete Rees
These monthly events take place at Hitchin Town Hall. 8.00 till late, (doors 7.30). Real Ale Bar. Entry only £8.00 (various concession prices available):
01582 733113/724261/882831 or www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk
- Sept 25th **Roundabouts** 40th Anniversary Dance tel 01438 235634 Ticket only
- Oct 1st **Friday Folk.** Club Callers plus AGM
- Oct 29th **Unicorn Ceilidh** The Brookfield Band plus Adrian Besant
- Nov 7th **Staplers** St. Ippolyts Parish Hall, Waterdell Lane St Ippolyts, Nr Hitchin SG4 7RA. Colin Hume with Jump the Vortex. 2.00 – 5.00 in aid of British Schools Bicentenary Celebration. 01582 811966
www.staplers.org.uk
- Nov 13th **Winchmore** Brian Jones with the Forest Band 020 8926 7293 7.30 pm
- Nov 13th **London Barn Dance** Henry Morganstein with Chesapeake 8.00 pm
01628 633962 www.barndance.org
- Nov 20th **Harrow** Shaftsbury High School, Headstone Land, Harrow Weald 7.30 pm
HA3 6NP Carol Hewson with the Forest Band 020 8868 7526
- Nov 26th **Unicorn Ceilidh** English Rebellion plus Adam Hughes
- Nov 27th **Friday Folk.** Saturday Special at Francis Bacon School, Drakes Drive.
St Albans AL1 5AR Geoff Cubitt & Stick Shift. £8
- Nov 27th **Bedford F.D.C.** Putnoe Heights church hall, Bedford MK41 8EB 7.30pm
Graham Foster with Brian McMinn & Mike Green. 01234 825574
- Nov 27th **St. Andrews,** Ivan Aitken with Jip. 020 8366 3982 7.30 pm
- Dec 4th **Staplers** Rhodri Davies with Skylark 7.30 pm
Venue and contact details same as Oct 2nd
- Dec 10th **Friday Folk.** Christmas Party Andrew Swaine,
Mollie K, & friends. Ends 11pm. £5
- Dec 11th **London Barndance** Goeff Cubitt with Fat Harry 8 pm
- Dec 11th **Winchmore,** Barrie Bullimore with the Forest Band 7.30 pm
- Dec 16th **St. Albans Abbey,** Homewood Rd UR Church Hall, 7.30 pm
Sandpit Ln AL1 4BH 01727 834977
Anne Dunn with Brian Patrick & Vic Courtice

Dec 17th **Friday Folk.** Carol Singing around St Albans

Dec 31st (New Years Eve) **Unicorn Ceilidh** band and caller to be arranged but there will be a 'Big Ceilidh'!

Jan 1st **Winchmore.** (Anglo-Scottish) Andrew Kellet & Arnold Stem with the Forest Band.

Jan 8th **Winchmore.** Cyril Jones with the Forest Band.

Jan 22nd **St. Andrews.** Val & Ian McFarlane with Toucan play

Feb 5th **Staplers,** Lynne Render with the Ivel Valley Band

Feb 5th **English Miscellany Barn Dance** Climax Celidh Band with Andrew Swaine Harpenden Public Halls, A15 1PL Tickets Jenny Lane 01582 764084

Feb 12th **Winchmore.** Mary Bryan with the Forest Band

Feb 22nd **St. Andrews.** Anne Dunn & Cyril Jones with the Forest Band

Mar 5th Welwyn Garden City, Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, 7.30 pm
Welwyn. AL6 9ER. Geoff Cubbit with the Forest Band.
01707 320299/mail@ptelvins.plus.com

Mar 12th **Winchmore.** Dick & Maggie Hosking with the Forest Band

Mar 19th **Harrow.** Rosemary Hunt with Orion's Ring

Mar 26th **St. Andrews.** Keith Wright with the Orange and Blue.

Hertfordshire Folk Association

Membership Application Form



Annual fees: Individual £2
(Annual membership includes three issues of Puddingstone) Household £3
Group/Club £10

To have Puddingstone delivered to your door, please add £1 to your annual fees

Club/group (if applicable): _____

Name/s: _____

Address (inc. postcode): _____

Tel: _____

Email address: _____

I/we would like to apply for Individual* / Household* / Group* membership
(*please delete as applicable)

I/we would like each edition of Puddingstone posted to us (£1 for the year)
(please tick box)

and enclose a cheque payable to the Hertfordshire Folk Association
Please return completed form to:

HFA Membership Secretary, 6 Blackthorn Close, St Albans, AL4 9RP

HFA Affiliated Clubs & Groups

Please notify any further corrections or updates to Nic Nicolson, Membership Secretary by emailing nic.jackie@btinternet.com or phoning 01727 854183.

- Barnet Barn Dance Group** - Mrs V Mallindine, 40 Summerlee Avenue, East Finchley, London, N2 9QP
- Chipping Barnet FDC** - Mr A Mallindine (details as above)
- Croxley Green FDC** - J.W. Rowe, 109 Winton Drive, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, WD3 3QS
- Dance English Country** - Mrs Doreen Jones, 3 Uplands Way, Grange Park, London, N21 1DH
- English Miscellany FDC** - Marilyn Richardson, 24 park Meadow, Hatfield, AL9 5HA
- Fleetville FDG** - Mrs E.M. Waller, 2 Toulmin Drive, St Albans, AL3 6EG
- Friday Folk** - Mrs G Tibbs, 35 Gloucester Road, Enfield, EN2 0RA
- Harrow FDC**- Mr Roy Martin, 57 Waverley Road, Rayners Lane, Harrow, HA2 9RG
- Hemel Hempstead FDC**- Mrs C W Baughan, 85 West Valley Road, Apsley, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 0AW
- Hertford CDG**- Mrs J Newton, 15 Station Road, Digswell, Welwyn, AL6 0DU
- Letchworth Settlement CD** - Miss B Brockway, 43 Saxon Avenue, Stotfold, Hitchin, SG5 4DD
- North London Folk** - Miss H Vare, 31 Firs Lane, Winchmore Hill, London N21 2HT
- Offley Morris** - Dr P. Burton, 1 The Lodge, Holwell Bury, Hitchin, SG5 3RZ
- Roundabouts** - Mrs S Welch, 510 Archer Road, Stevenage, SG1 5QL
- St Albans Abbey FDC** - Mrs E Sinden, 60 Woodland Drive, St Albans, AL4 0ET
- St Albans Morris Men** - Mr B Bending, 4 Abbey View Road, St Albans, AL3 4QL
- St Andrew's Folk Dancers** - Mrs A Dunn, 3 Conway Gardens, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 9AD
- Staplers CDC** - Miss C A Mills, 73 Hexton Road, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4JZ
- Tappalachian** - Angela Williams, 47 Vivian Gardens, Oxhey Hall, Watford, WD194PG
- Watford FDC** - Ms Eileen Fudge, 30 Beech Park Way, Watford, WD17 3TY
- Welwyn Garden City FDC** - Mr T Elvins, 32 Templewood, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7HX
- Winchmore FDC** - Ms L Noor, 26 the Chine, Winchmore Hill, London N21 2EB
- Woodside Morris Men** - Mr R Bangs, 130 Tudor Way, Rickmansworth, AD3 2HL
-

ROUNDAABOUTERS (STEVENAGE)

40TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE

25 September 7.30-11

COLIN HUME & THE FOREST BAND

High Street Methodist Church
Sish Lane,
Stevenage SG1 3DB

Tickets in advance only
£8 from Richard Thom 01438 235634

COME AND TRY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

*Welwyn Garden City
Scottish Country Dance Club
Lemsford Hall, Brocket Road
AL8 7TT*

Wednesday from 8pm to 10pm.

Enjoy lively jigs and reels and the elegance of strathspeys to recordings of top Scottish bands.

Social dancing, help given, re-caps, walk throughs and calls when needed. Just bring flat comfortable soft shoes, no partner required.

£2 week including tea/coffee and biscuits, plus a small annual

Keep Folk Moving - How's it going'?

Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund:

Great news! For all those who have been following our fortunes in setting up a bursary fund to help those who wish to develop their folk art skills: - we are now able to launch a pilot to find out if there is a way we might run such a fund in the long term.

We have the support of the HFA, a constitution, a set of officers and a bank account with a modest amount of initial funding to get started. If successful, we will use feedback from those we help to appeal more widely for money - which will keep the process rolling.

An essential requirement attached to any assistance granted by the fund is that it should benefit the development of folk activity in our local area. If you think the fund could help you, application forms (with guidance notes) are available through the secretary to the fund, Roger Barnes (email: Barnesstab@aol.com).

Finally, if there are any clubs in the area who feel that they might like to help the fund, please get in touch with the treasurer to the fund, Barry Goodman (email: Barry.Goodman1@Ntlworld.com).

Norman Dobbing

Chairman, Hertfordshire Folk Development Fund

**English Miscellany visit to 'Irrintzi Dantza Taldea'
Zumarraga , Basque Country July 2010**

EM's recent visit was anticipated with that well-known heady mix of enthusiasm and ignorance. The exciting DVD footage of our hosts, **Irrintzi Dantza Taldea** in performance, was tempered by the sketchy pre-visit information – we were obviously in for some surprises! We should have realised that some things may not turn out as envisaged.....

We had been promised hostel accommodation; so far, so folky. The reality was definitely an exercise in 'expectation control'! Any foreign dance trip offers new challenges – we enjoy such inducements – but we never thought that our sternest test would be trying to get to sleep! Our accommodation for 4 nights was a large upstairs room with 25 beds, 1 cold shower (at least for some of the time) and 3 loos. The 'luxury' accommodation was ranged around the edge of the room, near the windows. We in the middle row had the night-time joy of 'surround sound'. On waking the first morning someone was heard to ask " Do we have to make our own beds?"

When we had recovered from the initial surprise at indoor camping (I know lots of you do it often, we're obviously getting old) we set to with a will to enjoy the weekend – and succeeded!

Irrintzi Dantza Taldea were simply breathtaking dancers, with a balletic style, even when doing a sword dance (or, a dance with swords is a clearer description) and very young (14 – 25 ish; they were usually past it by 30!) and charming and generous hosts. They had invited us to enjoy their annual festival in which they perform special sword and dagger dances to a pipe and tabor band in an ancient hermitage (La Antigua) half way up another hillside. Hundreds of people flocked there and were genuinely interested in the dancing. We spent all day on the hillside eating, drinking, and watching them dance – "Tomorrow" they said, "will be your turn."



Saturday was our first day of dance and would begin with a procession, after meeting the Mayor of Zumarraga. First we had to walk to town – down in the deep valley, and then entered a modern council chamber not unlike an elfen hall from Lord of the Rings. The Mayor welcomed us warmly and formal gifts were exchanged. We sang for him and one of our hosts' lead dancers performed a solo – he leaped so high he appeared to rise above the table – very LOR! We were beginning to feel a little old and wondered whether our more 'restrained' dance style would be understood among this very young, 'fit' community! Afterwards we were surprised to discover that WE were to be the procession – 'having our turn' clearly meant parading ourselves around the town for an hour or so. We danced the procession and stopped along the way to perform set dances to widespread curiosity and appreciation from a dance – loving local population. I think it's fair to say that they were impressed by us but some said they could hardly believe that we were still dancing at our age! That evening we had our main show – in a very hot theatre, sharing the billing with our hosts' young section' and their girls, who do different dances to the

men in this case a Cotswold Morris-style dance with 2 short sticks and very fast steps and figures. All the dancing was full of ballet steps - pliés, entrechats etc and was fantastic to watch. We opened our show with NW Clog Morris and to say the audience was stunned is an understatement! We had decided to 'give it some welly' as we were keen to do some dancing and I think it's true to say that they had probably never seen anything quite like it! Being at the front of the first dance set I saw the look of amazement on some faces and incredulity on others. You could say we gave a 'shocking' performance, but it really made our presence felt in the town and for the rest of the weekend people approached us in the street to say how exciting we were. When our men did their North Skelton longsword dance the audience was riveted. This was something unique for them and they loved it. Their most important traditional dances are the sword dances which had been



performed the day before, and the differences between theirs and ours were intriguing.

Sunday dawned, (we were really getting into the sleeping together by now) with yet another long walk downhill to watch the annual 'oxen pulling contest'. This was a first for us. Teams of 2 oxen with 2 handlers tried to pull a large weight of 1700 kilos across the town square and back as many times as possible in 20 minutes. This to us was a unique experience but could not be watched for long. The oxen were beautiful animals but seemed to be given a hard time.

We went to a local town, Legazpi, for our final show on an outdoor stage. The audience was not large but they were enthusiastic and gave us a good reception. The stage was what is usually called 'challenging' as it vibrated, panel by panel, on the off beat to most of our tunes! This did not deter our country sets who opened the show in style and the Cloggies made the most of an interesting surface!

By the time we returned for our last evening in the dorm we were feeling tired but triumphant. Zumarraga had probably never seen anything like us before and by the end we were almost local celebrities - no mean feat in a town of 10,500 people!

By the time we returned for our last evening in the dorm we were feeling tired but triumphant. Zumarraga had probably never seen anything like us before and by the end we were almost local celebrities - no mean feat in a town of 10,500 people!

Amazingly we are all still talking to each other and some members even had the courage to continue along the coast for a longer holiday together. I can say though that it was a thoroughly enjoyable time, even without much sleep, in a place where traditional dance is a passionate interest and where people were so welcoming and friendly. The dance group we visited, although we did not see many of their dances and they did not dance out 'with us', were fabulous and the standard of their dancing was of a high quality.

I feel I know my fellow EM members even better now for having taken part in this trip to the Basque Country, and would like to thank them for contributing to the enjoyment of my days and the purgatory of my nights – it's all part of life's rich folk pattern!

Kathy Harper, English Miscellany

Unicorn Ceilidhs

These monthly events take place at Hitchin Town Hall.
8.00 till late, (doors 7.30). Real Ale Bar. Entry only
£8.00 (various concession prices available):

Friday 24th Sept - Chalktown plus Pete Rees

Friday 29th Oct - The Brookfield Band Plus
Adrian Besant

Friday 26th Nov - English Rebellion plus
Adam Hughes

Friday 31st December -band and caller tba
- but there will be a big ceilidh.

**More information is available from
01582 733113/724261/882831
or at www.unicornceilidhs.org.uk**

CD Reviews by PETE FYFE

DANU – Seanchas (Own Label)

Since 1995, the band Danu have carved their name with pride along with the likes of De Dannan, Altan and Clannad for their attractive arrangements of Gaelic/Celtic songs and music. They may not be the kind of band that will hit you between the eyes with a gael force intensity but rather, like a fine port or brandy allow their music to seep into your soul with a mellowness that is rare to find in these ultra clever days of ‘folk fusion’. Without the need to ‘prove’ themselves with flash performances of finger flailing that leaves the listener flabbergasted and breathless at the end of each track...although I’m sure they can...each of the members; Muireann Nic Amhlaoihb (vocals, flute), Benny McCarthy (accordion), Oisín McAuley (fiddle), Eamon Doorley (bouzouki) and Donal Clancy (guitar) rely on the art of subtlety to convey their message. Now, I’d be the first to admit that I still can’t get my head around the intricacies of the Gaelic language even though English translations are available in the accompanying book but I think I can safely say that for those of us too lazy or should that be ignorant (?) would be seductively attracted to the soothing tones of Nic Amhlaoihb. I don’t know about you, but in this fast paced, frenetic way of life we’ve all become accustomed too the chance to chill out and luxuriate in a soft, comforting blanket doesn’t feel such a bad idea. www.danu.net

GARRY & ROSE BLAKELEY – The Ceremony Of May (Attitude Records CD-007)

OK, I know nepotism isn’t a nice thing but when the artist I am reviewing just happens to be my best mate in a professional and personal sense and a damn fine fiddle player to boot then I think I should be forgiven this one transgression. As well as part of our established duo Band Of Two, Gaz has many other strings to his bow and has recently completed a project he has been working on for some time called The Ceremony Of May. In collaboration with his wife Rose (who wrote the lyrics and poems), Jane Downes (the narrator), Edd Blakeley (Garry’s son) plus Hugh Crabtree (melodeon) and Tom Leary (additional fiddle) from Feast Of Fiddles, he has created a gem that only the ‘folk’ world could produce much like Ashley Hutchings’s “The Complete Danc-ing Master” before it. The disk is festooned with great melodies each of which I could see at home as ‘session’ tunes particularly the opening track “Dawn Awakening” and the distinctly traditional Morris-sounding medley “Sunrise/A New Day Begins”. For those who enjoy their folk-rock with a bit of bite there are the dramatic “The Green Man” and “Bogies-of-the-Green” both of which possess fine anthem like qualities in the tradition of rallying calls for England and St George. Balancing the light and shade of the music there’s a more acoustic approach taken on the evocative song “Farewell To Winter” which I’m sure will prove a winner with those who enjoy their music Radio 2 friendly and the narrative carried throughout by the animated tones of Jane Downes (also established as ‘the caller’ for The Catsfield Steamers) is a delight that will appeal to anyone who listens to Radio 4. This is the kind of album that is hard to pigeon-hole as it crosses so many categories of the ‘arts’ scene but you can rest assured if you’re looking for something challenging but ultimately fulfilling this will definitely be the album for you. www.theceremonyofmay.co.uk

St Albans Morris Men 80th birthday tour

By Nic Nicolson

What it is that comprises 3 and a half hours in the car to get there & back; a day in a coach that required attention to its suspension; two plowman's lunches; chilli con carne & a steak pie plus 47 dances and a jig? Those are the bare statistics of St Albans Morris Men celebrating their 80th birthday by undertaking a Cotswold tour on 17 & 18 July 2010.

Friday night no dancing, but we re-invented the game of skittles. Apart from Graham Lynden-Jones none of us could knock over more than six skittles with three balls. So we changed the rules.

Saturday commenced with dancing at the War Memorial in Sherborne. No audience except a lady from Leafield about to take her dog for a walk in the grounds of Lodge Park (NT). Starting and finishing with a Sherborne dance we did a 5 dance display. Then back on the bouncy coach to the Lamb Inn, Shipton-under-Wychwood where the display commenced with Jockey to the Fair (as the pub was decorated with signed jockey breeches in cases on the walls) and finished with Black Joke both from Ascott-under-Wychood. (The Swan, the only pub in Ascott was closed for redecorating and we had already danced at one dry spot).

Shipton was followed by Leafield where we danced outside what remains of the Fox - it has suffered badly since closure. We met a lady who dances with Princess Emma Morris from Ducklington from whom we learnt a great deal about Leafield and Fieldtown local history.

Next stop, dancing & lunch at the Kings Head, Bledington. A fabulous setting overlooking the village green complete with it's own stream so *Over the Water to Charlie* had to be included in the après lunch display. If you visit the Kings Head look closely at the pub sign. (Ask a SAMM member for details)

From Bledington, onto the Howard Arms at Ilmington. Another show without much of an audience but a chance for some of us to chat to the villagers and learn more about the Ilmington Men and their tradition.

Ilmington to Adderbury required almost an hour in the bumpy bus. But the welcome we got on arrival was worth it. We danced at the Bell, which is the home of both Adderbury MM and Adderbury Village MM. John the landlord had publicised our visit and a good crowd awaited our arrival

Adderbury was the last of our formal dancing spots. Dinner at the Coach & Horses, Longborough gave Mike Bennett a chance to show his Longborough skills and the rest of us to dance something more gentle.

Sunday morning arrived complete with hangovers. But nevertheless we set out towards Headington Quarry and the Mason's Arms. Not everyone made it on their own. Nic arrived with his own escort from Thames Valley Police and Trevor didn't make this spot at all. *Hunt the Squirrel* plus *Rodney* with two HQMM looking on was a bit challenging but we pressed on regardless.

Last spot for the weekend was in Wheatley where since contacting the pub in January the licence had been taken over by two Thai ladies whose idea of a plowman's lunch was original to say the least. Starting and finishing with Wheatley dances together with 4 dances from other traditions brought the weekend to a close

Bedford Folk Dance Club

(Formerly Bedford Barn Dancers)

Christmas Dance

Saturday 27 Nov 2010
7.00 – 10.30 pm

Music by Brian McMinn & Mike Green
Caller – Graham Foster

Tickets £6.50

Putnoe Heights Church
Bedford
MK41 8EB

Bring a plate of food to share
and your own drinks and glasses

Contact: Ron Law 01234 825574

CD Review

The Ragamuffin – Jimmy Lee and the Edge of Chaos Orchestra

If you like Ralph McTell and Val Doonican then you will probably love this crooner. You can read Jimmy Lee's interesting life story, and find out how to buy the CD, by going to www.edgeofchaosorchestra.co.uk. The "orchestra" is in fact a group of seven instrumentalists playing 'cello, violin, accordion, double bass, mandolin, banjo, concertina, guitar and drums (but not all at the same time). The name "Edge of Chaos" is puzzling, suggesting as it does something daring and experimental. Actually this is a musically unsophisticated ballad-based collection of mostly slow and reflective songs, interspersed with a few livelier but not particularly successful country-sounding numbers. Jimmy Lee is an Englishman who shows clear American influences in his vocal style and material. He sings with conviction, and there are some nice stories told in his songs. In the end, though, we found it hard to imagine this album appealing to very many outside the rocking-chair-and-cardigans community.

Review by the Lyne family
(Godfrey, Karon, Naomi and Nathan)



St. Paul's Centre

102 Church St. Enfield EN2 6AR
Traffic Light Junction, Old Park Ave
Entrance from car park at rear

Resident Musicians

The Forest Band

Membership £7 + £4.00 per Dance
Guests £6.00 per Dance

Callers for 2010

Sept 11	Playford	Arnold Stem
Oct 9	AGM	Anne Dunn
Nov 13		Brian Jones
Dec 11		Barrie Bullimore

7.30 - 10.30

Info: John Wood 020 8926 7293

DanseHerts

French & Breton Music & Dance
now in our fourth year *SIFD Affiliated*

Our group meets
on the second Sunday of
each month

12:00 - 17:00

Musicians
session/practice

12:00 - 13:00

Dance Tuition to live music
13:00 - 14:00

Dancing to live music
14:00 - 17:00

Dancers, Musicians
of any level
always welcome

always help on hand
always fun

Please bring your own
drink, and food to share if
you wish

Sunday

12th September

10th October

***Our 4th Birthday Bash with
Angles and Kerry Fletcher***

11:30 - 18:00

£15 plus £5 workshops

14th November

with Mistral

12th December

at

Ickleford Village Hall

82, Arlesey Road,

Ickleford,

Nr Hitchin, Herts.

SG5 3TG

£5 (conc.£4)

Unless otherwise stated

For further details visit:

www.danseherts.co.uk

HARROW FOLK DANCE CLUB

*(Charity Registration No. 801346; Affiliated to EFDSS,
Hertfordshire Folk Association, North London Folk & SIFD)*

38th. PLAYFORD BALL

SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2010

CAROL HEWSON

~ ~ with music by ~ ~

THE FOREST BAND

**at SHAFTESBURY HIGH SCHOOL,
HEADSTONE LANE, HARROW WEALD, HA3
6NP. (Near Headstone Lane National Rail Station)**

First Dance 19.30 (promptly) - until 22.45 hrs.

Tickets (on the door) £7.00 including refreshments.

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Forthcoming attractions:

**41st. Anniversary Dance - Sat 19th March 2011
(Rosemary Hunt with Orion's Ring.)**

**39th. Playford Ball - Sat 19th November 2011
(David & Kathryn Wright with Folkus Pocus)**

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*The Harrow Folk Dance Club meets most Mondays (except in August),
7.30 - 9.55pm at Belmont School Hall(entrance at the back of the school)
Hibbert Road, off Locket Road, Harrow Weald, HA3 7JT*

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For further information contact:
Roy Martin - 020 8868 7526